derivatives such as hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose (HPMC), hydroxyethyl cellulose (HEC), hydroxypropyl cellulose (HPC), methyl cellulose, ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose and sodium carboxymethyl cellulose (NaCMC); starch derivatives such as moderately cross-linked starch; acrylic polymers such as carbomer and its derivatives (Polycarbophyl, Carbopol®, etc.); polyethylene oxide (PEO); chitosan (poly(D-glucosamine)); natural polymers such as gelatin, sodium alginate, pectin; scleroglucan; xanthan gum; guar gum; poly co-(methylvinyl ether/maleic anhydride); and crosscaramellose. Combinations of two or more bio/mucoadhesive polymers can also be used. More generally, any physiologically acceptable agent showing bio/mucoadhesive characteristics may be used successfully to be incorporated in the carrier. Bio/mucoadhesiveness can be determined in vitro, e.g. according to G. Sala et al., Proceed. Int. Symp. Contr. Release. Bioact. Mat. 16:420, 1989.--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 1 as follows:

--1. (amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of acute disorders by sublingual administration, comprising an essentially water-free, ordered mixture of microparticles of at least one pharmaceutically active agent adhered to the surfaces of carrier particles, said particles being substantially larger than said microparticles and being

water-soluble, and a bioadhesion and/or mucoadhesion promoting agent mainly adhered to the surfaces of the carrier particles.--

Amend claim 7 as follows:

--7. (amended) A composition according to claim 6, wherein the bio/mucoadhesion promoting agent is selected from the group consisting of cellulose derivatives and comprising hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, and modified cellulose gum; crosscaramellose; modified starch; acrylic polymers comprising carbomer and its derivatives; polyethylene oxide; chitosan; gelatin; sodium alginate; pectin; scleroglucan; xanthan gum; guar gum; poly-co-(methyl vinyl ether-maleic anhydride); and mixtures thereof.--

Amend claim 20 as follows:

--20. (amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein the pharmaceutically active agent is fentanyl or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.--

Please charge the fee of $55 for the terminal disclaimer filed herewith, to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

REMARKS

This application has been amended in a manner that is believed to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.